

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 144829
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:C E MARTHINSEN:NEA:M STERNER
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA:H SAUNDERS
S/AA:A L ATHERTON, JR.
S/S-O SGOLDSMITH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0307

S E C R E T STATE 144829

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EG, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY TO SADAT

REF: CAIRO 13839

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO
SADAT: QUOTE I READ WITH SATISFACTION THE TEXT OF YOUR
MAY 30 REMARKS TO THE PRESS REGARDING YOUR WILLINGNESS TO
RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS ISRAEL INTRODUCES
NEW ELEMENTS INTO THE PROCESS.

I BELIEVE IT WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL IMPACT
ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND WILL SERVE TO IMPROVE THE CLI-
MATE FOR ISRAELI CABINET DISCUSSION OF THE TWO QUESTIONS

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WE HAVE POSED TO ISRAEL. BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND I APPRE-
CIATED VERY MUCH YOUR PROMPT AND HELPFUL RESPONSE TO HIS
MESSAGE. UNQUOTE

2. IF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU NEXT SEE
SADAT WE WOULD ALSO LIKE YOU TO MAKE
FOLLOWING ORAL COMMENTS TO HIM, IN MANNER YOU DEEM MOST

EFFECTIVE:

A) WE UNDERSTAND AND INDEED SHARE SADAT'S VIEW THAT THERE MUST BE REAL MOVEMENT SOON IN THE PEACE PROCESS. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW EGYPTIAN REFERENCES TO "EXPIRATION" OF THE SINAI II AGREEMENT CREATE DEFINITE PROBLEMS AND ARE NOT THE BEST WAY TO GET THIS MESSAGE ACROSS.

B) IN THE FIRST PLACE, ACCORDING TO ITS TERMS THE SINAI II AGREEMENT EXPIRES ONLY WHEN IT IS REPLACED BY ANOTHER FOLLOW-ON AGREEMENT. REFERENCE TO THE "EXPIRATION" OF SINAI II BY A SPECIFIC DEADLINE PROVIDES ISRAEL WITH AN ISSUE ON WHICH IT CAN PERSUASIVELY CRITICIZE THE EGYPTIAN POSITION.

C) BEYOND THIS, WE WONDER WHETHER ATTEMPTING TO PLACE A SPECIFIC DEADLINE ON THE PEACE PROCESS SERVES EGYPT'S PURPOSES. BOTH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WILL TEND TO SEE SUCH STATEMENTS AS PRESSURE TACTICS AND IT IS LIKELY TO HAVE THE EFFECT OF STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF HARDLINERS WHO ARE TRYING TO DEPICT SADAT AS ADOPTING INFLEXIBLE POSITIONS.

D) WE FULLY APPRECIATE THAT SADAT HAS AN ARAB AUDIENCE AS WELL AS ISRAEL AND THE U.S. TO THINK ABOUT WHEN HE MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, WE THINK THERE ARE
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OTHER WAYS BESIDES SETTING SPECIFIC DEADLINES FOR SADAT TO GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT TIME IS NOT UNLIMITED IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

E) WE WANTED TO CONVEY THESE THOUGHTS TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND CANDID CONSULTATION THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING ABOUT HOW BEST TO PROMOTE THE PEACE PROCESS. VANCE

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